

Wild Horse Death Due to Trailer Transportation at Gather

On Jan. 25, a mare was injured during transportation from the gather site to the temporary holding corral during the Elko District's Antelope Complex Wild Horse Gather. It was thought that she had a proximal femoral fracture/luxation or pelvic injury. She was treated with banamine, an anti-inflammatory and pain reliever, for two days. The morning of Jan. 27, she was still showing signs of the injury and was euthanized by the BLM.

A physical examination of the leg post-mortem confirmed the suspicion of the proximal femoral or pelvic injury due to swelling and crepitus. The BLM's decision to euthanize the mare was consistent with its policy which provides for the euthanasia of horses with serious physical defects including incurable injuries or acute injuries that would not allow for an acceptable quality of life for the foreseeable future. The mare's injuries would not allow for it to be shipped a distance on a trailer, and turning her loose with such an injury would not have been a responsible course of action.